N A N T W I C H U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L.

1944.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

K. Knowles. F.R.C.S.

to which is appended

the REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR

F. J. Shepley.

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area. 1,173 acres.
Estimated population to middle of 1944. 8,670.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to Rate Books. 2,369.
Rateable value. £44,030.
Sum represented by a penny rate. £170.

Nantwich is an ancient town situated in the south-west corner of Cheshire, and is primarily a market town for a large and important agricultural area.

Industrial enterprise exists in the form of the manufacture of clothing and a tannery.

Vital Statistics.

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births	(legitimate)	47.	60.	107.
	(illegitimate)	5.	5.	10.

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 13·49

Still Births	2.	2.	4.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 33·05.

Deaths	52.	38.	90.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 10·38

Deaths from puerperal sepsis- Nil

Deaths from other puerperal causes - Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births - 51·29
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 37·38
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - 200

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or requires comment -Nil

SECTION B.

1. General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

i.	Medical Officer of Health	(Part-time).	K. Knowles, F.R.C.S.
	Sanitary Inspector	(Full-time).	P. Bebbington (deceased June,1944) F. J. Shepley (Commenced Nov:1944)

Engineer and Surveyor (Full-time) E. H. Bailey F.S.I., M.Inst M. & Cy. E.

ii. Nursing arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the District is under the County Council, and one trained Nurse is in attendance.

There are two trained Nurses working in the district, one for district work and the other for maternity cases. These are supervised by a Committee, supported by voluntary subscriptions. A small charge is made to those who require the Nurses' services and do not subscribe; necessitous cases are attended free.

There is a Poor Law Institution and Hospital in the District, also a Cottage Hospital and Ambulance facilities.

The Nantwich Joint Isolation Hospital has 41 beds; three diseases can be treated concurrently. There are also up-to-date ambulance facilities and steam disinfecting apparatus. The Smallpox Hospital is situate at Ravensmoor and is available for both Urban and Rural Districts.

SECTION C.

1.
i. Water Supply.

There is a sufficiency of water for the present needs of the existing population, (drought conditions excepted) and the quality of the water is satisfactory. A chemical and bacteriological analysis are taken at least quarterly.

The majority of the Urban District is supplied from Baddiley Waterworks, and the water pumped to Ravensmoor Reservoir (capacity 250,000 gallons) and thence gravitating to the town.

There is a constant supply and water is supplied direct to the houses.

There are several dead-ends in the distribution system which will be connected through as soon as the labour is available for this purpose.

There is a slight plumbo-solvent action; according to the analysis this varies from nil to ·07 parts per 100,000 after 24 hours contact. Tin-lined lead pipes are used for house services.

Occasionally there is a trace of action on aluminium and iron but not enough to be stated numerically.

The Water is treated on the 'Dual Coagulation' principal the following chemicals being added - Sulphate of Alumina, Sodium Aluminate, Sodium Carbonate and Hydrated Lime

Following the chemical treatment the water is passed through pressure filters and chlorinated.

An average of 243,800 gallons per day were supplied from the Baddiley source.

The remaining portion of the District is supplied in bulk by the Nantwich Rural District Council from the Bearstone Supply amounting to 59,000 gallons per day.

The total daily consumption for the Urban District amounts 302,800 gallons which is equal to 34·9 gallons per head per day based on a population of 8,670.

ii. Sewage Disposal.

The sewage disposal scheme is working satisfactorily.

2.
i. Closet Accommodation.

This is referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

ii. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This is referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

iii. Shops and Offices.

This is referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

iv. Eradication of Bugs.

This is referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION D.

Housing.

There have been no new houses built in the district during the year. New houses are urgently needed for relieving overcrowding, separating families and rehousing people living in unfit houses. The Council, I am pleased to report, are prepared to build as quickly as circumstances will permit.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

This matter is referred to in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases.

	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total.	cases adm. to hospital	Total Deaths.
Sc. Fever.	1	1	2	1	1	12	1	1	1	1	-	-	22	20	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1.	-
Wh. Cough.	2	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Measles.	7	13	23	14	27	65	6	2	2	-	-	-	159	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	1	7	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Totals	10:	15:	29:	16:	29:	78:	8:	4:	3:	3:	3:	1:	199	21	1

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Mortality during 1944

Age Periods.	New cases. Respiratory: M.	F.	Non-Respiratory: M.	F.	Deaths Respiratory: M.	F.	Non-Respiratory: M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10- 15	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
15- 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20- 25	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
25- 35	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
35- 45	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45- 55.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55- 65	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	1	2	1	1	2	-	-

All Tuberculosis deaths have been notified. During the year all cases of Tuberculosis reported have been visited, sputum cups and disinfectants provided gratis, and leaflets containing information for those suffering from the disease have been distributed.

After death or removal to hospital, all bedding, rooms etc., have been thoroughly disinfected.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The Scheme whereby the Council has arranged for children to be immunised by their own family doctor has again been successful. The Council provides a background of local publicity and in addition a direct appeal is made to the parents of children. It is pleasing to report the wholehearted co-operation of the Medical Practitioners, the Health Visitor and the Press.

During the year 44 children under 5 years of age and 13 between 5 and 15 years were immunised, the cost being borne by the Council.

(Signed) K. KNOWLES.

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Nantwich Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report for the year 1944. Mr. P. Bebbington, your late Sanitary Inspector died in June, 1944 and I commenced duties on the 15th November, 1944.

Housing.

Only urgent repairs which have been necessary to abate nuisances have been carried out; even this work has been difficult owing to the shortage of labour and materials. A rapid survey of the district reveals that the majority of working class houses are aged and it is estimated that between 450 and 500 houses should be demolished; a large number of the remainder are in a poor state of repair.

Owing to the large proportion of small two bedroomed houses the Council would be ill advised to build anything less than three-bedroomed houses in the future. If it is felt at a later date that accommodation is required for rehousing aged couples etc., the Council may be advised to acquire some existing good quality small houses. This would to some extent relieve the necessity of converting two small cottages into one house, as suggested in the County Medical Officer's Report.

Pail Closets.

There were still 125 pail closets in the district at the end of the year.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 14 cowkeepers in the district, eight are producers of Accredited milk. The Council have agreed to a scheme whereby milk sold in the district should be systematically examined twice a year for the presence of Tuberculosis. In addition it has been agreed to have bacteriological samples taken from both designated and non-designated milk retailers.

Bakehouses.

Bakehouses have been inspected and found satisfactory.

Offensive Trades.

There are two offensive Trades established within the district, one large Tannery and a Fellmonger. The Tannery is a modern plant and well run. I would however have liked to have seen alternative methods of dealing with the effluent. At present the effluent passes into large settling and balancing tanks before passing into the sewers. The balancing tanks are near the centre of the town and in a populated district.

The Fellmonger's premises are for the present used as a hide and skin sorting and grading depot under a Government scheme. These premises are bad and should be removed or rebuilt at the earliest possible opportunity.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are two Common Lodging Houses. One is structurally porr and the Council decided to limit the number of lodgers to 4 until such time as the premises can be dealt with under the Housing Act. The other premises are verminous and steps are being taken to remedy these conditions.

Eradication of Bed bugs.

A number of premises have been treated for vermin. In Council Houses the work has been done by the Council. In other premises the Council have done the work and recovered the cost. The method used has been Zaldecide spray.

Vermin Generally.

There appears to be a large number of houses infested with cockroaches and ants. Ants are especially troublesome on the Council Housing Estate. Only a prolonged determined effort and the co-operation of the tenants will stamp this infestation out.

Rats and Mice.

The destruction of rats and mice is now being carried out by the Council. The Cheshire County Council Scheme whereby the Council undertakes to destroy rats and mice at the occupiers' expense is working well and a large number of these rodents have been killed. Generally, the occupiers of premises appreciate the facilities.

Food and Drugs Act.

This Act is administered by Officials of the County Council.

Shops Act 1934.

The sanitary provisions of this Act are administered by the Council. When circumstances permit I would suggest that they review some of the exemptions granted.

Infectious Diseases

All cases of Infectious Diseases notified had immediate attention and disinfection of bedding and rooms was carried out. Special attention was paid to the sanitary condition of the premises.

Slaughterhouses.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district; these are not being used.

(Signed) F. J. SHEPLEY.

Sanitary Inspector.